MARVEL

4

AARON
KIRK
MORALES
FAJARDO
ORLANDO
DAVIDSON
TIERI
EARLS

STAR WARS™

DARTH VADER

BLACK, WHITE & RED

When Anakin Skywalker turned to the dark side, he became Darth Vader, one of the most powerful Sith of all time. In his service to the evil Galactic Empire, he has left a trail of destruction and terror, striking fear into the hearts of millions across the galaxy....

STAR WARS
DARTH VADER
BLACK, WHITE & RED

"HARD SHUTDOWN PART 4"

JASON AARON writer • LEONARD KIRK penciler

MARK MORALES inker • ROMULO FAJARDO JR. color artist

"THE INHABITANT"

STEVE ORLANDO writer • PAUL DAVIDSON artist

"RETURN TO HOTH"

FRANK TIERI writer • DANNY EARLS artist

TAURIN CLARKE cover artist

TONY DANIEL; KEVIN EASTMAN variant cover artists

CARLOS LAO designer • VC's JOE CARAMAGNA letterer

MIKEY J. BASSO assistant editor • DANNY KHAZEM associate editor • MARK PANICCIA editor

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Disney · LUCASFILM

HE'S *UNARMED!* TAKE HIM DOWN!

"HARD SHUTDOWN part 4"

Jason Aaron - writer • Leonard Kirk - penciler
Mark Morales - inker • Romulo Fajardo Jr. - colorist

GUUGH!

HELP! *GAAGH,* SOMETHING'S *DRAGGING* ME!

CYN! DAMN YOU, CYN, YOU--

AAAAARRRGGGGH!

YOU! THIS IS YOUR FAULT, CYN!

YOU'VE KILLED US ALL BY BRINGING THAT MONSTER HERE!

BUT AT LEAST WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT YOU DIE FIR--

HGGGHK!

GHHHRRK!

RRRRGHHK!

NNNNN

YOU *FAIL*... BECAUSE IN THE END...

...YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN YOUR *FATHER'S* SON.

AND A FEW SPARE PARTS.

I...AM *NO MAN'S* SON.

GLOAT ALL YOU WANT, VADER. BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE WHAT HAPPENED.

I **BEAT** YOU. I FOUND THE ONE, LITTLE **WEAKNESS** IN YOUR SYSTEMS, AND I FIGURED OUT HOW TO EXPLOIT IT. HOW TO **SHUT YOU DOWN.**

I DID THAT! I HAD YOU AT MY **MERCY!!!**

SO GO AHEAD-- CHOKE ME, CARVE ME INTO PIECES. BUT NO MATTER HOW I SCREAM, KNOW THAT I'LL STILL BE **SMILING.**

BECAUSE YOU... YOU COULD **NEVER** DO TO ME...

...WHAT I DID... TO THE MIGHTY **DARTH VADER.**

HA.

HAA HA HA HAA HA!

HHGGERHK!

UUGHH...

WHAT? WHERE AM I...? WHY DIDN'T VADER...?

NO...NO, THOSE ***NESTS***-- THOSE BELONG TO...

GGGGHK...

YOU WILL FIND YOUR MOTOR FUNCTIONS HAVE JUST BEEN ***NEUTRALIZED***. YET YOUR ***NEURAL RECEPTORS*** REMAIN QUITE ACTIVE.

THAT MEANS THAT YOU CAN HEAR ME. AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY...

...YOU CAN ***FEEL*** WHAT'S ABOUT TO BE DONE TO YOU.

THE FAULT THAT YOU UNCOVERED WITHIN MY SYSTEMS WILL BE CORRECTED. MY ONE MINOR WEAKNESS FOREVER ELIMINATED.

YOU THINK YOUR OWN SYSTEMS SOMEHOW SECURE... ***SUPERIOR***.

YOU FAIL TO REALIZE THAT YOU POSSESS THE ***GREATEST WEAKNESS*** OF ALL. JUST THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE.

HHRRRRRMM!

I AM VADER.

AND YOU ARE NOT.

HHRRREEEEIIH!

Planet Uokara.

The Unknown Regions.

STATUS REPORT, LORD VADER?

"THE INHABITANT"

Steve Orlando - writer
Paul Davidson - artist

SURVEY *COMPLETE*, DIRECTOR. YOU MAY *COMMENCE* WITH YOUR MINING OPERATION.

I FIND NO *SENTIENT SPECIES*. NO *CLAIM* TO STAMP OUT.

NO *OPPOSITION*.

THIS *WORLD*, THOUGH *FERTILE*...

"...IS UNINHABITED."

RELEASE ME, DROID.

APOLOGIES, LORD VADER. **QUARANTINE** IS IMPERIAL STANDARD UPON CONTACT WITH A CLASS IV PLANET.

I WILL **NOTE** YOUR **DISPLEASURE** FOR THE RECORD. BUT AS YOU REMAIN SEMI-ORGANIC...

...YOU ARE **SUSCEPTIBLE** TO UNFORESEEN PATHOGENS. YOUR **RESULTS** ARE COMPILING.

SOON, YOU WILL BE **FREE** TO--

TWIKTCH

LORD VADER, I AM DETECTING AN INCONSISTENCY IN YOUR BIOMETRICS.

INITIATING EMERGENCY DIAGNOSTIC.

TWIKTCH

DIAGNOSTIC COMPLETE. UNCLASSIFIED ACELLULAR PATHOGEN DETECTED.

PLEASE REMAIN CALM.

TWIKTCH

KRAK

THE BACTA FLUID WILL STERILIZE ALL EXTERIOR PLASMOIDS.

BUT IF ANY REMAIN INTERNALLY, THERE IS THE POTENTIAL...

"...FOR HALLUCINATORY EFFECTS."

WELCOME, VADER. I TRUST YOU **RECOGNIZE** THIS RANK INFERNO? YOUR **MIND**. YOUR **FEARS**. UNFETTERED. UNLEASHED. AND INFECTED... BY **ME**.

YOU **WANT** MY WORLD FOR YOUR **EMPIRE**. BUT IT WILL **NOT** COME **FREELY**.

I AM **GHYMNON**. UOKARA'S SOLE NATIVE, STRETCHING FROM SEA TO SEA.

YOU **BREATHED** ME IN. I AM **CLINGING** TO YOUR DESICCATED BRAIN STEM.

MY SABER.

GONE. OF **COURSE** IT IS. OUT THERE, I AM **MICROSCOPIC**. HERE...

...**MY FOCUS** DEFINES YOUR REALITY. HERE, I WILL **CUT YOU DOWN**...

...AS I DO ALL WHO ATTACK MY HOME!

KRACH

"NO SENTIENT LIFE," YOU SAID. I WAS *THERE!*

I HAVE BEEN FOR *MILLIONS* OF YEARS!

MILLIONS OF YEARS OF *UNCHECKED GROWTH.* OF *DISORDER.*

A *MISTAKE* I WILL SOON *REMEDY.*

VOOM

PLEASE. THE *FORCE?* YOU THINK YOU CAN *PUSH ME,* LITTLE BUTCHER?

I AM THE FORCE HERE!

KRAK

I *COVER* UOKARA'S SURFACE-- ONLY *ARROGANCE* COULD HIDE ME FROM YOUR GAZE!

I AM *BIOME.* I *SPREAD.* I *INFEST.* AND WHEN *CONQUERORS* COME...

...I CONQUER THEM.

FF

CONQUERORS, VADER. NOT BROKEN, PIECEMEAL WIZARDS LIKE YOU.

...YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME, DISEASE.

I TRULY DON'T.

FLRO

SIZH

YOU DIDN'T *NEED* TO INVADE. YOU *CHOSE* THIS! NOW YOUR *MIND* DIES...

...AND YOUR *BODY* FOLLOWS--DANCING IN PERFECT *SYNC!*

IFWWWWO

OOOOMO

INFILTRATING YOUR RESPIRATOR WAS *EASY*. YOU'RE HELPLESS. AFTER SO LONG A *LIFE*...

...HUMBLING *DESPOTS* IS ALL BUT A *SCIENCE* TO ME. DID YOU *REALLY THINK* YOU WERE THE *FIRST?*

YWO

NO. BUT I *WILL* BE THE LAST.

UOKARA CRIES FOR ORDER.

8PM

WAIT--*YOU* CONTROL THE FIRES?! *IMPOSSIBLE!* YOU--YOUR *FLESH* IS MY PRISONER!

YOUR MIND BENDS TO *MY WILL!*

INDEED, GHYMNON.

THERE IS WILL...

...AND THERE IS *ME.*

CHOOM

NO... I AM *INSIDE* YOUR HEAD! POISON SANDS! A WORLD ABLAZE! UTTER DESOLATION...

...COMPLETE ISOLATION! I *BUILT* THIS HELL FROM *YOUR OWN FEARS!*

KHETTT

YOU ARE MISTAKEN. *FEAR* DOES NOT EXIST.

KOOM

ONLY FUEL.

A *PITY* YOU DO NOT KNOW THE *DIFFERENCE.*

PITY, *HEH*... I'VE LIVED EONS. BURIED THOUSANDS OF *LORDS*. THEY MEET ONLY *ONE END.*

I MAY NOT BE YOURS. BUT KNOW THIS, VADER-- KILL ME, PILLAGE UOKARA'S RICHES...

...YOU MAY *WIN TODAY.* AND EVEN *TOMORROW.*

BUT *YOUR TIME* WILL COME.

PERHAPS, GHYMNON.

POW!

THUD

BUT YOU WILL NEVER SEE IT.

A TRUTH THAT WILL PLEASE ME...

"...LONG AFTER YOU'RE DUST."

TWIK-

SHUKT

FIZZZZZZZ

FIZZL

DROID.

REPEAT THE SCAN.

THE BACTA HAS STERILIZED THE PATHOGEN YOU... EXPELLED, LORD VADER.

ACTIVATE THE RANGE CORPS. EQUIP MOBILE BACTA UNITS.

AND PREPARE A NOTE FOR THE RECORD.

"UOKARA.

"A FERTILE WORLD...

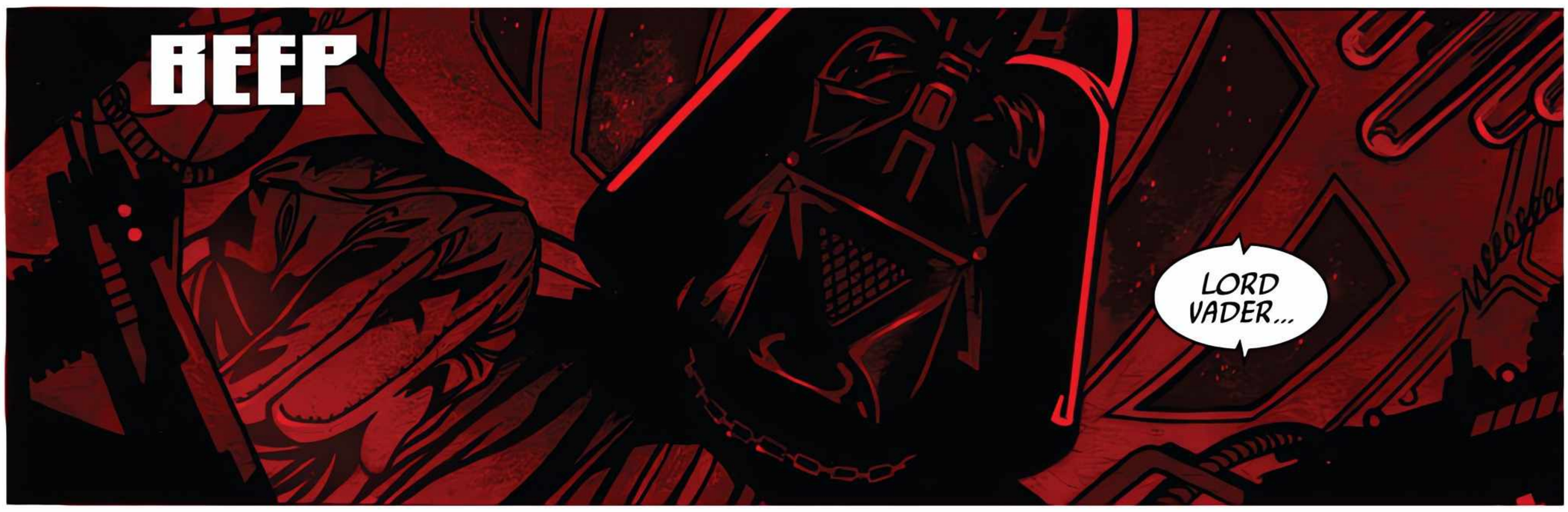
"...WITH ONE INHABITANT.

"UNTIL TODAY."

End.

“RETURN TO HOTH”

Frank Tieri - writer
Danny Earls - artist



IT COULD BE THE REBELS HAVE RETURNED. IT COULD BE WEATHER RELATED... ON THAT FORSAKEN PLANET, IT COULD LITERALLY BE ANYTHING. THAT BEING SAID, SHALL I SEND A DETACHMENT TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER?

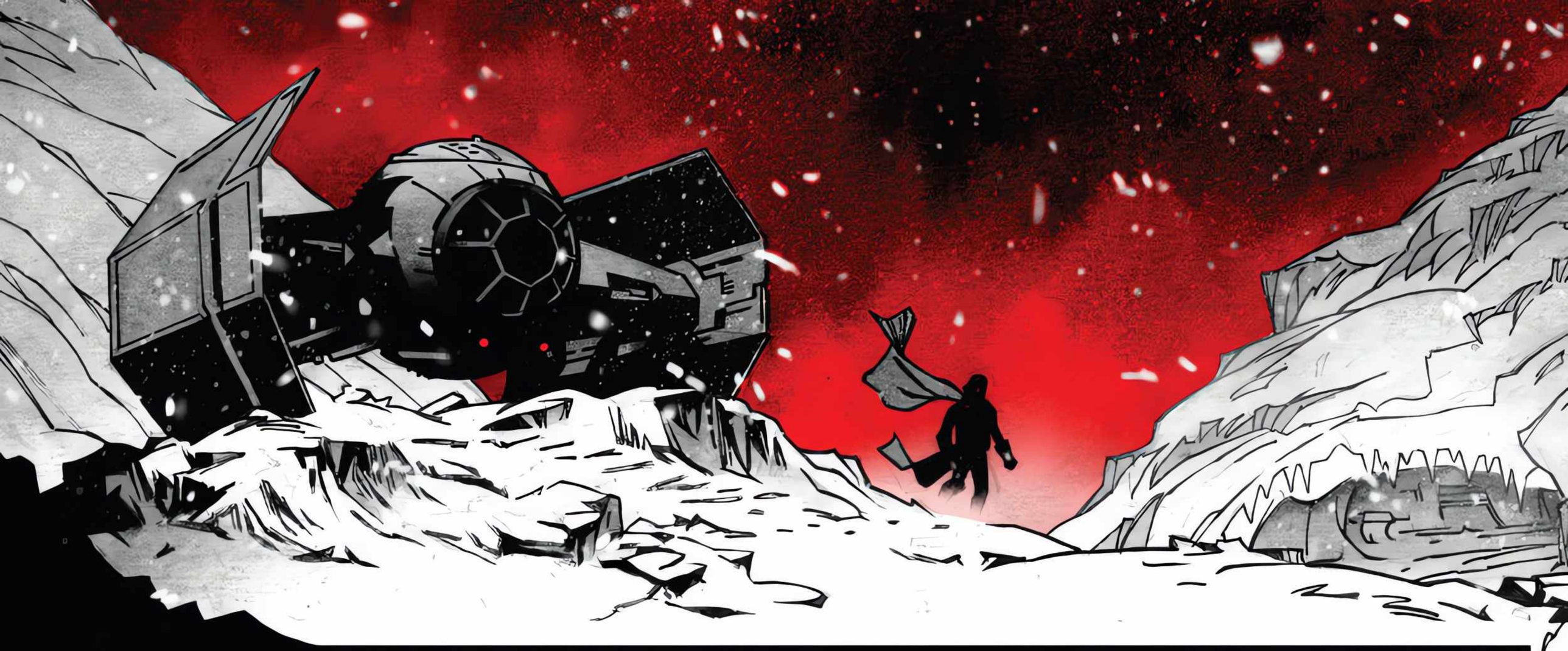
THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT, GENERAL. I'LL HANDLE IT MYSELF.

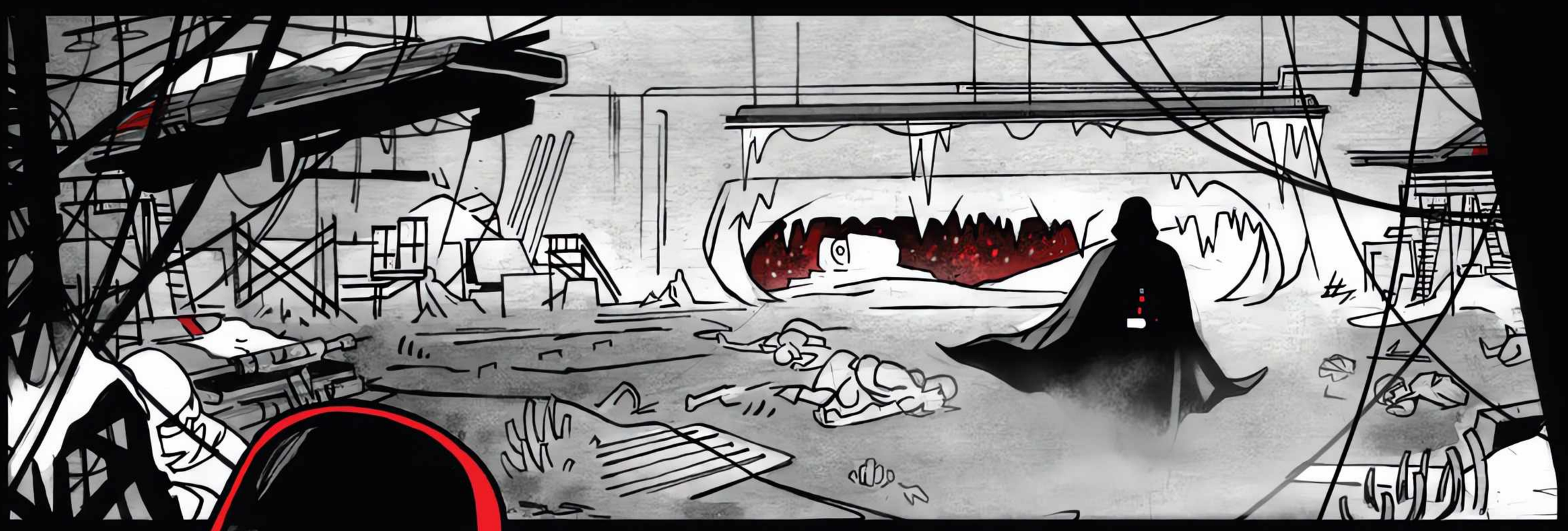
IS...THAT PRUDENT, MY LORD? TO UNNECESSARILY PUT YOURSELF IN POSSIBLE DANGER WHEN I CAN JUST AS EASILY SEND--

ARE MY ABILITIES BEING QUESTIONED, GENERAL?

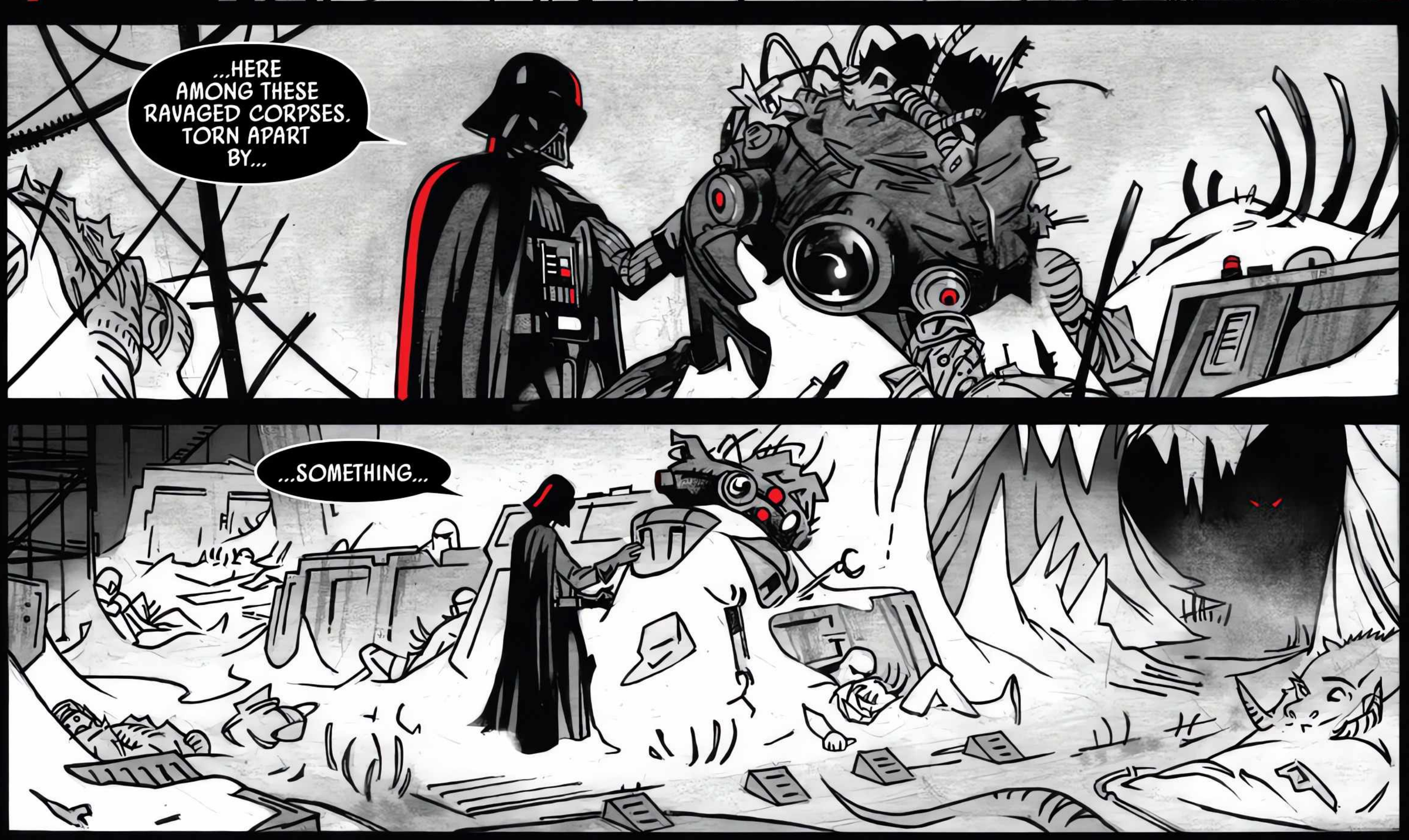
NO... NO, OF COURSE NOT, LORD VADER. MY APOLOGIES IF I--

CLICK!





THE PROBE...


...HERE AMONG THESE RAVAGED CORPSES, TORN APART BY...
...SOMETHING...

RAAAAAARRR!

WHFT!

ARRRHHHH!

YES, KEEP BACKING UP.

KRSSHH!

KUH... KUH... CHEST PLATE... DAMAGED...

BREATHING... COMPROMISED...

MUST... KUH... KUH...

KUH... KUH...

...TO THE SHIP...

MORE OF THEM?

KUH... KUH...

...GET...

CRASH!

CLACK!

INITIATE EXTRACTION PROTOCOL.

KUH... KUH... KUH...
THAT...
KUH... KUH...
ABANDONED AT-AT...
KUH... KUH... KUH...
NEED TO...SEAL.
KUH... KUH...
KRRRKK!

KUH... KUH... KUH...

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

RRRRIP!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

RRRRIP!

KWFT!..

RAAAAARRR!

ARRRHHHH!

KUH... KUH... KUH...

FWOOM

KUH... KUH...

ARRRRHHHH!

KRK!

VFFFFMM!

KUH...
KUH...
KUH...
KUH...
GENERAL...

"WE HAVE HIM."

KUH... KUH...

LORD VADER... HOW PLEASED I AM TO SEE WE WERE ABLE TO RESCUE YOU. DAMN THAT CURSED PLANET AND THOSE CREATURES! I DID CAUTION YOU THOUGH THAT--

ACK!

End.

FOR MORE STORIES OF THE SITH LORD, CHECK OUT

DARTH VADER 36!

ON SALE NOW

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